

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 8, line 12 (inserted before "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS"):

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1A is a block diagram of a fibre channel system in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 1B is a block diagram of a 20-port ASIC fabric element in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 1C is a block diagram of a 20-channel switch chassis in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 1D is a block diagram of an ASIC in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 1E is a block diagram of fibre channel switches according to the present invention.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a switch chassis according to the present invention.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a port structure according to the present invention.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of a queue module according to the present invention.

Figure 5 is a flow diagram for frame transmission according to the present invention. --

In the claims:

Claim 18 has been changed to:

-- A system for transmitting fibre channel frames, comprising:

means for placing frames in a plurality of priority queues, where each priority queue is dedicated to frames having similar priorities;

means for selecting frames for transmission based on each frame's priority;

means for determining whether a sum of empty receive buffers at a destination port and received buffers at the destination port that are filled with higher priority frames is greater than or equal to the hop count for the selected lower priority frame;

wherein higher priority frames are selected before lower priority frames until a threshold number of higher priority frames have been selected, after which at least one lower priority frames is selected if lower priority frames are pending.--

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-3166. The examiner can normally be reached weekdays from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Trost, can be reached at 571-272-7872. The centralized fax number for the Patent Office is 571-273-8300. For non-official communications, the examiner's personal fax number is 571-273-3166 and the examiner's e-mail address is kevin.harper@uspto.gov.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications associated with a customer number is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see portal.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kevin C. Harper/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2616

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